The following recitation of claims supersedes all previous recitations.

In the Claims:

- 1. (Currently Amended) An ionic compound comprising a cation which is a complex of a neutral organic liquid selected from the group consisting of organic amines and crown ethers with a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Ag<sup>+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>3+</sup> and Fe<sup>3+</sup> and an anion which is a conjugate anion of the metal ion.
- 2. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is a liquid below 100°C.
- 3. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 2 which is a liquid at room temperature.
- 4. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is electrically conductive in the absence of a solvent.
- 5. (Previously Presented) An ionic liquid according to claim 1 which is hydrophobic.
- 6. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 wherein said neutral organic ligand is a crown ether.
- 7. (Previously Presented) An ionic liquid according to claim 1 wherein the neutral organic liquid is at least one alkyl amine.

- 8. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 wherein said conjugate anion is bis(trifluoromethane)sulfonimide, boron trifluoride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate and dicyanamide.
- 9. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an ionic liquid comprising mixing a neutral erganic liquid selected from the group consisting of organic amines and crown ethers with a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>,Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, and Fe<sup>3+</sup> and with the salt of a metal cation and its conjugate anion at room temperature.
- 10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said neutral organic ligand is a crown ether.
- 11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 wherein the metal cation is selected from the group consisting of sodium potassium, lithium and calcium.
- 12. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said neutral organic ligand is an alkylamine.
- 13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein said metal cation is selected from the group consisting of silver, zinc, copper, cadmium, nickel, mercury and iron.

- 14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9 wherein said conjugate anion is bis(trifluoromethane)sulfonamide, boron trifluoride, nitrate, sulfate, phosphate, hexafluorophosphate and dicyanamide, selected from the group consisting of organic amines and crown ethers with a metal ion selected from the group consisting of Na<sup>+</sup>, K<sup>+</sup>, Li<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>2+</sup>, Ag<sup>+</sup>, Zn<sup>2+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Cd<sup>2+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, and Fe<sup>3+</sup> and an anion which is a conjugate anion of the metal ion.
- 15. (Original) A method according to claim 9 which is performed at room temperature.
- 16. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which may be used as a solvent.
- 17. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which may be used for gas liquid separation.
- 18. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which may be used for solvent extraction.
- 19. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 4 which is used in electrical devices.
- 20. (Previously Presented) An ionic compound according to claim 1 which is used as a heat transfer fluid.